



AHRQ and Aging with Disability: Challenges and Funding Opportunities

Harvey Schwartz, Ph.D., M.B.A.

Senior Advisor, Priority Populations, Office of Extramural
Research, Education, & Priority Populations

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

May 18, 2012



Presentation Overview

- Agency Overview
- AHRQ Role in CER – ongoing & future
- Research Priorities
- Research & Training Opportunities
- Challenges & Opportunities

Long-term system-wide improvement of health care quality & effectiveness



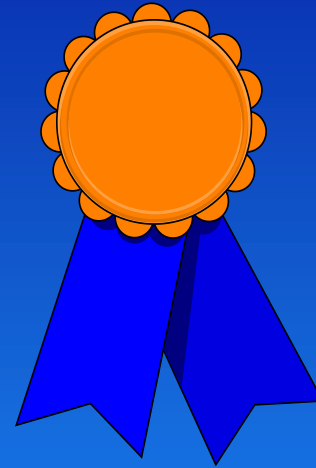
AHRQ's Focus and Strategic Goals

- Quality: Deliver the right care at the right time to the right patient
- Safety: Reduce the risk of harm by promoting delivery of the best possible health care
- Efficiency: Enhance access to effective health care services and reduce unnecessary costs
- Effectiveness: Improve health care outcomes by encouraging the use of evidence to make more informed health care decisions



AHRQ-Funded Research Disability Project Areas

- Traumatic brain injury
- Cervical spine injury
- Schizophrenia
- Depression
- Functional disability
- Disability in speech/language disorders
- Treatment for brain injury and stroke
- Managing pain after spinal cord injury
- Quality of life in COPD





Examples of Research Findings

Research Activities, December 2011 - May 2012:

Elders and families find it difficult to interpret data from passive sensors that help monitor elderly activity

Improving quality of care for falls and urinary incontinence also improves quality of life in elderly patients

Depression, hearing impairment, and health literacy influence older adults' abilities to self-manage their care

Lower educational level increases the likelihood of preclinical changes in mobility in older women

Human factors challenges in home health care

Engaging the Public

Effective Health Care Program

Helping You Make Better Treatment Choices

Search Effective Health Care

SEARCH

[Home](#)

[Guides for Patients and Consumers](#)

[Guides, CME/CE, and Other Resources for Clinicians](#)

[Slide Library and Other Resources for Faculty, Researchers, and Policymakers](#)

[Search for Guides, Reviews, and Reports](#)

[Comparative Effectiveness Research Grant and ARRA Awards](#)

[Submit a Suggestion for Research](#)

[Research Available for Comment](#)



View and participate in self-study materials

[Introducing Online CME/CE](#)

[Visit the New Slide Library](#)

[Learn About New Social Media Tools](#)

[Participate in Our Surveys!](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

New and Improved: Registries for Evaluating Patient Outcomes and HIT

Webcast, Sept. 27, 8:00 am ET

Save the Date!

Integrating Comparative Effectiveness Research into Everyday Practice

Web Conference, Oct. 12, 2:00 pm ET

Now Open for Comment

Draft Documents

Sept. 15–Oct. 13, 2010

Progestogens for Prevention of Preterm Birth

Sept. 24–Oct. 22, 2010

News and Announcements

General Announcements

Aug. 30, 2010

"Integrating Comparative Effectiveness Research into Everyday Practice," a Web conference featuring Dr. Carolyn

Most Popular This Week

Most Viewed

Consumer Guide

Antidepressant Medicines - A Guide for Adults With Depression

Consumer Guide

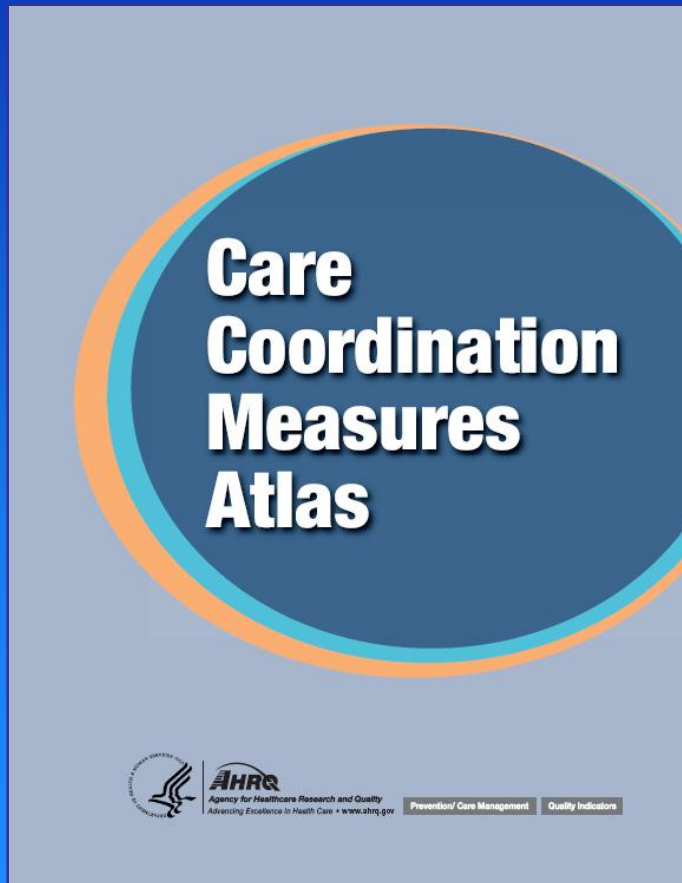
...From Clinical Science to Clinical Practice

- **AHRQ:** Translate clinical science into clinical practice
- Need systematic knowledge about how clinicians, health systems, patients, and communities adopt and apply clinical findings
- AHRQ funds evaluation of interventions that produce strong, measurable impact with high potential for replication



Resource for Care Coordination Measures

A framework for understanding care coordination measurement



- Identifies more than 60 measures for assessing care coordination
- Includes perspectives of patients and caregivers, health care professionals and health system managers
- Also useful as a tool for locating gaps in existing measures that can be addressed in future work



Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)

- Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute
 - Independent, nonprofit Institute with public- and private-sector funding
 - Sets priorities and coordinates with AHRQ and NIH
 - Prohibits findings to be construed as mandates on practice guidelines or coverage decisions and contains patient safeguards
- Provides funding for AHRQ to: disseminate research findings of the Institute and other Government-funded research, build capacity for CER and train researchers in methods used to conduct research - **\$8M in FY11, \$24M in FY12**

PCOR Working Definition

- Patient-Center Outcomes Research helps people make informed health care decisions and allows their voice to be heard in assessing the value of health care options
- This research answers patient-focused questions:
 - Given my personal characteristics, conditions and preferences, what should I expect to happen to me?
 - What are my options and what are the benefits and harms?
 - What can I do to improve the outcomes that are most important to me?
 - How can the health care system improve my chances of achieving the outcomes I prefer?



AHRQ CER Priorities

- Support research focusing on the generation and translation of new scientific evidence and analytic tools and the integration of evidence into practice and decision-making in the health care system
- Methodological studies should aim to advance study designs and methods to fill specific knowledge gaps and to enhance the consistency, applicability, and generalizability of the comparative effectiveness studies
- Clinical studies should aim to develop new scientific evidence that fills important knowledge gaps and to generate critical insights on the clinical effectiveness and comparative clinical effectiveness of health care interventions. Must be informed by stakeholder needs.

AHRQ CER Topics

- Effectiveness/comparative effectiveness of health care treatments and services, including pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, devices, and other types of interventions or combinations of interventions.
- Studies of the effectiveness/comparative effectiveness of important new or existing health care technologies.
- Assessment of the effectiveness/comparative effectiveness of health care treatments for common, high-cost conditions in elderly and women in various age and racial/ethnic groups.
- Effectiveness/comparative effectiveness of interventions and health outcomes in patients with multiple co-morbidities.



Research Opportunities

- R01 Research Grants
 - 3 application receipt dates per year
 - up to \$250K/yr
- R03 Small Research Grants
 - 3 application receipt dates per year
 - up to \$100K/yr
- Large and Small Conference Grants (R13) - \$50K/yr
- Research Demonstration and Dissemination (R18) Grants (up to \$250K/yr)



Training & Career Development

- Pre and Postdoctoral Training
 - NRSA Institutional Training Programs (T32)
 - NRSA Predoctoral Fellowships for Underrepresented Minority Students (F31)
 - NRSA Postdoctoral Fellowships (F32)
 - Dissertation Grants (R36)

- Career Development Awards
 - Mentored Clinical Scientist Awards (K08)
 - Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01)
 - Independent Scientist Awards (K02)



Mentored and Independent Investigator Awards

- **Mentored Research Scientist Awards (K01)**
 - Research trained doctorates – e.g. Ph.D., Sc.D., Dr.P.H.
- **Mentored Clinical Scientist Awards (K08)**
 - Clinical doctorates (including those in patient-oriented research) who require mentoring and have potential to develop into independent investigators
- **Independent Investigator Awards (K02)**
 - Promising new clinical and nonclinical investigators who are out of training 5 years or less, with demonstrated need of intensive research focus

Duration of Support: 3 to 5 years

Level of Support: \$90,000 annually, plus additional benefits



AHRQ PCOR Training Initiatives

- Provide opportunities at all levels:
 - Training & developing the careers of new researchers
 - Providing bridge/career support for emerging researchers
 - Retooling mid- to senior-level investigators
 - Growing capacity in emerging institutions
- Funding Announcements (FY11 and FY12)
 - AHRQ Mentored Career Enhancement Award in Patient Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) (K18)
 - Infrastructure Development Program in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) (R24)
 - AHRQ Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institutional Award (K12)
- Future Programs – stay tuned!



New PCOR K18 Funding Announcement

- Supports Mid to Senior Career Development in CER methods (e.g., associate to full professor level or equivalent in non-academic settings)
- Allows career transition to CER
- 6 months to 2 years of support
- Each award up to \$275,000
 - Full salary level, within DHHS Grants Policy Guideline levels
 - \$50,000 in research enhancement/development support annually (travel, tuition and related costs, statistical support, research-related support, mentors)
 - Anticipate supporting 7-10 new awards annually



New PCOR R24 Funding Announcement

- Institutional award to develop CER capacity in developing institutions (e.g., those which have *some* existing health services research capacity, but are not centers of excellence in CER)
- \$1 million per award annually for up to 5 years total
- \$4 million allocated annually for 4-6 new awards
- Broad infrastructure support: faculty/researcher development in tools & methods; institutional, multidisciplinary partnership development; support for research dissemination and implementation; sustainability support
- Encourage partnerships with centers of excellence
- Funds for infrastructure development and research projects (3-5 multi-year projects)



New PCOR K12 RFA

- Institutional Career Development Awards for up to five scholars per program (avg. 3-4)
- Provides:
 - Salary and fringe benefit support for junior faculty and postdoctoral fellows (salary cannot exceed \$90,000 annually)
 - Research-related costs of up to \$35,000 per scholar annually
 - 2 year awards
- Requires 100% scholar commitment
- Anticipate funding 4-6 grants, for approximately \$2 million in total annual costs across all grants
- Funding Decisions – May 2012

A Few Key Questions

As we build capacity for CER and PCOR by establishing new grant programs that provide for the training of researchers in methods used to conduct research,

- How do we incorporate patient-centeredness for persons aging with disability?
- What does patient-centered for persons aging with disability really mean?
- How do we include relevant stakeholders (patients, providers, & policy makers) up front in developing research studies?
- How do we train researchers to do patient-centered outcomes research, including persons aging with disability?
- What is the role for mentors and research training environment?

Thank You & Contact



AHRQ Mission

To improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care for all Americans

AHRQ Vision

As a result of AHRQ's efforts, American health care will provide services of the highest quality, with the best possible outcomes, at the lowest cost

www.ahrq.gov;

Harvey Schwartz, Ph.D., M.B.A.
(301) 427-1552

Harvey.Schwartz@ahrq.hhs.gov